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(54) Abstract Title

Accessing remote data sources from an aircraft

(57) An aeroplane contains an information request system 102, transmission unit 306 and receiver 106. Passengers on the aeroplane may be connected together via a LAN 304 and may request data from a remote network system 314, such as an Internet, via a user interface 302. Requests for data may be sent via an aeronautical satellite system 310, VHF radio communications system (fig.4) or, if the aeroplane is at or near to an airport, via a wireless LAN (fig.5). Data retrieved from the network is sent back to the passengers via a high bandwidth direct broadcast satellite link 319 from which it is received by the receiver and routed 308 to the appropriate users.

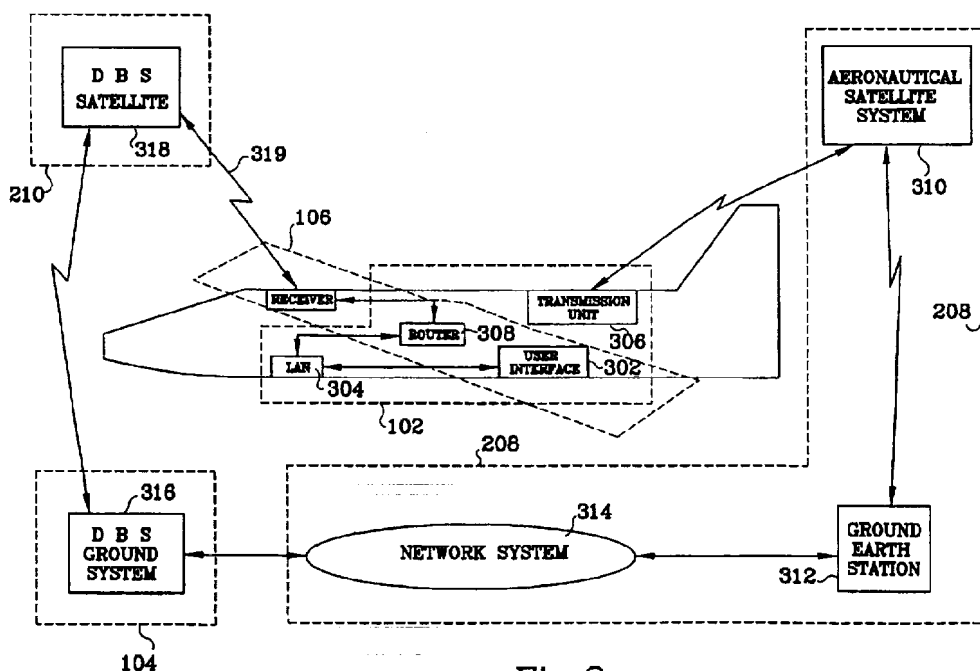


Fig.3

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